

# University of Waterloo



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Department of Computer Science  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1  
(519) 888-4804; Fax (519) 885-1208  
E-mail: shallit@graceland.uwaterloo.ca

December 31, 1996

Nancy Crowe  
Regulatory Policy Division  
Bureau of Export Administration  
Department of Commerce  
14th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Room 2705  
Washington, D.C. 20230 USA

Dear Ms. Crowe:

As a US citizen residing in Canada, I am most concerned about the new encryption regulations recently put in place by the Clinton administration.

As a professor at a Canadian university, I teach algorithmic number theory and cryptographic applications. Nearly all of my students are non-US citizens. The vagueness of these restrictions potentially endanger my right to instruct students in my area of research. Furthermore, they are almost certainly unconstitutional, as Judge Marilyn Hall Patel recently ruled.

It is simply nonsensical to attempt to prohibit the export of information about and software for strong cryptography. The genie is out of the bottle, and there is virtually nothing that can be done to stuff it back in.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeffrey Shallit".

(Prof.) Jeffrey Shallit